

Fifty Years of Medical Practice Completed by Physician at Heber

BY MARION CLEGG

HEBER—Dr. W. R. Wherrit of Heber has just completed 50 years of continuous medical practice—49 of which he has spent in Wasatch county.

Dr. Wherrit was born in Independence, Mo., Dec. 16, 1875, son of Thomas J. and Elizabeth Russell Wherrit. He attended school in Pleasant Hill, a small town about 40 miles south of Kansas City, Mo. At 17 years of age he was a registered pharmacist.

After graduation from the Kansas City Medical college, in 1898, he went to Goldfield, Colo., where he practiced medicine for a few months. Having two brothers in Park City at that time, one the postmaster and one a bank cashier, Dr. Wherrit decided to come to Utah and settled in Heber city just prior to the completion of the railroad here.

He married Miss Emma Hatch, daughter of Joseph and Jane Clyde Hatch of Heber city, in 1900.

Dr. and Mrs. Wherrit have had three children, two boys and a girl. Dr. Russell Wherrit is a graduate of Pennsylvania Medical school, is on the staff of the Holy Cross hospital and is a member of the Intermountain Clinic in Salt Lake. The other son, Barton, had received his master's degree in medicine from the Pennsylvania Medical school a few months before his tragic death in an automobile accident. Mrs. Lois W. Todd, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Wherrit, lives in Heber.

Dr. Wherrit practiced medicine the hard way, going through mud, cold and snow over barely passable roads from one end of the county to the other and it is remarkable that he has retained such fine health in spite of his constant exposure to the elements.

In the 1918 influenza epidemic, he was the only doctor at home in the county and had to attend to all of the stricken people himself. He has known what it means to have no modern hospital or trained nurses to aid him.

Since 1902 Dr. Wherrit has served the city and county as health physician with the exception of one term that was filled for the city by Dr. Bert Dannenberg. He has also been the railroad physician for many years.

Of his four brothers, one is still living, Dr. C. F. Wherrit of Kamas.

Dr. Wherrit is a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine. Dr. and Mrs. Wherrit were honored at a Boosters club banquet in Midway last week where they received many expressions of appreciation for the long years of service in the county.



Residence of Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Wherrit, one of the finest early homes in Heber. Built in the early 1900's by John Austin and purchased by Dr. Wherrit in 1908. It was built before electricity and city water were supplied. Water for the home was hand pumped from a well on the lot to tanks in the top of the home which supplied pressured water. It is still one of the outstanding homes of the city.



in E. Austin.

J. H.

PIONEERS OF WASATCH COUNTY

J. M. T.

Dr. W. R. Wherritt was the youngest of a family of five sons. He was born at Pleasant Hill, Mo., Dec. 16, 1875. After being graduated from the Kansas City School of Medicine in 1898 he was faced with the problem, "where to locate." Two of the older brothers were living in Park City and they wished him to join them and help make a home for their widowed mother, which he did. He came to Park City, then on to Heber Valley to visit the hot pots. He liked Heber and decided to remain.

Dr. Wherritt married Emma Hatch in September 1900. Their two sons became fine doctors. Their daughter married Dean Todd of Heber.

All the hardships of rural practice before electricity or improved roads were endured by Dr. Wherritt. He went through all the trials of lack of trained help. One New Year's Eve he was lost in a blizzard between Heber and Charleston for several hours. His horse refused to face the storm and wandered around in a circle. There were no fences or land marks. Eventually he got his directions and was able to make his visit and return home.

Dr. Wherritt loved his profession, the faithful horses that served him well and his dogs. He loved dearly this beautiful valley and its people. The mountains were a source of strength—he often quoted: "I lift up mine eyes to the hills, whence cometh my strength". Another of his favorite quotations was, "Make the work that you do the play that you love."

He was in his 49th year of practice of medicine in Wasatch County when he died suddenly of a heart attack on Nov. 4, 1948. He was a friend to every one.



Dr. W. R. Wherritt... Prominent Heber physician dies suddenly.

ters, Mrs. Mollie Dewarup, Desere, Mrs. J. Williams, Compton, Calif., and Mrs. Clara Petersen, Dallas, Tex.

Burial will be in the Delta City Cemetery.

Heber Lady Succumbs

HEBER — Funeral services for Emma Hatch Wherritt, 91, 315 E. Center, Heber, will be Friday at noon at the Olpin Mortuary, 288 N. Main, Heber, where friends may call Friday prior to the services.

Mrs. Wherritt died Tuesday in the Wasatch County Hospital of causes incident to age.

She was born March 10, 1878, in Heber, a daughter of Joseph and Jane Clyde Hatch. She married Dr. William Russell Wherritt on Sept. 12, 1900, in Heber. He died Nov. 1, 1948.

Mrs. Wherritt was active in civic affairs.

Surviving are her son and daughter, Dr. J. Russell Wherritt, Salt Lake City, and Mrs. Dean (Lois) Todd, Heber; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, and two brothers, George Hatch, Heber, and Glen S. Hatch, Salt Lake City.

Burial will be in the Heber City Cemetery.

Emma H. Wherritt

HEBER CITY — Emma Hatch Wherritt, 91, died Nov. 18 in a Heber City hospital of natural causes. Born March 10, 1878, Heber City to Joseph and Jane Clyde Hatch. Married to Dr. William Russell Wherritt, Sept. 12, 1900, Heber City; he died Nov. 1, 1948. Active in civic affairs. Survivors: son, daughter, Dr. J. Russell, Salt Lake City; Mrs. Dean (Lois) Todd, Heber City; 6 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; brothers, George, Heber City; Glen S., Salt Lake City. Funeral Friday noon, Olpin Mortuary, Heber City. Burial, Heber City Cemetery.



Noted Doctor, 73, of Heber Dies at Home

Tribune Special

HEBER, Nov. 1—Dr. W. R. Wherritt, 73, prominent Heber physician and surgeon, died at his home in Heber Monday at 8 a.m. of a heart ailment.

Dr. Wherritt had been a practicing physician in Heber for more than 48 years. He was born in Pleasant Hill, Mo., Dec. 16, 1875, and graduated from a school of pharmacy and was a druggist for several years before studying to become a physician. He was graduated from Kansas City Medical college in 1897 and soon afterwards began practicing at Cripple Creek, Colo. He came to Heber in 1900.

He had been city and Wasatch county physician most of the time since he began practicing here. He married Emma Hatch of Heber the year of his arrival here.

Dr. Wherritt was a member of Story lodge, No. 4, F. and A. M., Provo; was a 32nd degree Mason and was a member of El Kalah temple, A. A. N. O. M. C., Salt Lake City.

Surviving are a son, Dr. J. Russell Wherritt, Salt Lake City; a daughter, Mrs. Lois Todd, Heber; a brother, Dr. Charles F. Wherritt,

Kamas, Summit county, and six grandchildren.

Funeral services have been tentatively set for Wednesday in Heber and will be announced Tuesday by Olpin mortuary, Heber.

OBITUARIES

MRS. EMMA H. WHERRITT



Mrs. Emma Hatch Wherritt, 91 died in the Wasatch County Hospital on November 18, 1969, at 2:30 p. m. of causes incident to age.

She was born March 10, 1878 to Joseph and Jane Clyde Hatch. She married Dr. William Russell Wherritt on September 12, 1900 in Heber City, Utah. He died November 1, 1948.

Mrs. Wherritt was active in all civic affairs, especially the Red Cross.

She is survived by a son and a daughter, Dr. J. Russell Wherritt, Salt Lake City; Mrs. Dean (Lois) Todd, Heber City; six grandchildren; 5 great-grandchildren; 2 brothers, George, Heber City; Glen S., Salt Lake City.

Funeral services will be held on Friday at 12 noon at the Olpin Mortuary in Heber City.

Burial will be in the Heber City Cemetery.